Check on corruption in Customs Department

2957. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that the Central Excise Department harasses Corporate Sectors and Business Sectors just to look after the financial interests of their superiors;

(b) whether Government have any plan to nab such officers;

(c) whether Government keep an eye on the life-style of such officers and their families;

(d) whether Government have any plan for regular inspections and other ways of collecting international information of their staff; and

(e) whether Government feel it necessary to cleanse the Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Whereas the entire Department cannot be accused of such mal-practices, the Govt. on its part stands committed to support the honest officials and deal firmly with the dishonest.

(c) Instructions have been issued by the Govt. from time to time to the Controlling Officers to keep a watch on the life-style of officers in their departments through constant interaction with the trade and the public.

(d) Records of the Department are subjected to regular inspections.

(e) Lapses and mal-practices by officers in the department are dealt with sternly in accordance with prescribed procedure.